

Appl. No. 10/650,328

Response Date: 08/05/2005

Response to Office Action

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

- 1-18. cancelled
19. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:
an input unit for inputting image information;
a generating unit for generating output limitation information, regarding to
an output allowance term of the image information, corresponding to the
image information input by said input unit;
a storing unit for storing the image information input by said input unit
and the output limitation information generated by said generating unit;
a reading unit for reading a document, wherein the document contains
specifying information for specifying the image information stored by said storing
unit;
an output unit for outputting the specified image information stored by
said storing unit in accordance with reading of the specifying information by said
reading unit; and
an output control unit for determining whether the time when the image
information is to be output by said output unit is within the output allowance term
based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, and
for controlling the outputting of the image information by said output unit in accordance
with said determination.

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20. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said input unit inputs the image information by reading an image on a document.

21. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said output unit prints an image representing the image information on a recording medium.

22. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said output unit sends the image information.

23. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising a connector arranged to connect said apparatus to a network, wherein the specifying information indicates the storage location of the image information on the network.

24. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the image information is inputted to the input unit from a source external to the image processing apparatus.

25. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein outputting the image information is based on the result of comparing the output limitation information stored by storing unit with the specifying information read by the reading unit.

26. (previously presented) An image output method comprising:
an input step of inputting image information;

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a generating step of generating output limitation information, regarding to an output allowance term of the image information, corresponding to the image information input by the input unit;

a storing step of storing the image information input in said input step and the output limitation information generated in said generating step;

a reading step of reading a document, wherein the document contains specifying information for specifying the image information stored in said storing step;

an output step of outputting the specified image information stored said storing step in accordance with reading of the specifying information in said reading step; and

an output control step of determining whether the time when the image information is to be output in said output step is within the output allowance term based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, and controlling the outputting of the image information in said output step in accordance with said determination.

27. (previously presented) An image output method according to Claim 26, wherein said output step prints an image representing the image information on a recording medium.

28. (previously presented) An image output method according to Claim 26, wherein said output step outputs the image information based on the result of comparing the output limitation information stored in the storing step with the specifying information read in the reading step.

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29. (previously presented) An image output method according to Claim 26, wherein the image information is inputted to the input step from an external source.

30. (previously presented) A computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, said program comprising:

an input step of inputting image information;

a generating step of generating output limitation information, regarding to an output allowance term of the image information, corresponding to the image information input by the input step;

a storing step of storing the image information input in said input step and the output limitation information generated in said generating step;

a reading step of reading a document wherein the document contains specifying information for specifying the image information stored in said storing step;

an output step of outputting the image information stored in said storing step in accordance with reading of the specifying information in said reading step; and

an output control step of determining whether the time when the image information is to be output in said output step is within the output allowance term based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, and controlling the outputting of the image information in said output step in accordance with said determination.

31. (previously presented) Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 30, wherein said input step inputs the image information by reading an image on a document.

32. (previously presented) Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 30, wherein said output step outputs the image information

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based on the result of comparing the output limitation information stored in the storing step with the specifying information read in the reading step.

33. (previously presented) Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 30, wherin the image information is inputted to the input step from an external source.